



# **D.I.Y. SLIME AT THE LIBRARY:**

**MINIMIZE THE MESS & MAXIMIZE THE FUN!**

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# OVERVIEW

- What is Slime?
  - Origins
  - Current Trend
  - Types of Slime
- Why Slime in Libraries?
- How Do I Run a Slime Program?
  - Considerations & Logistics
  - Supplies
- Q&A / Play with Slime!



# WHAT IS SLIME?

Origins, Trends, & Types  
of Slime.



# ORIGINS OF SLIME



- Silly Putty - 1949
- Nickelodeon Slime - 1979
- Slime: The Elementary School Science Experiment
  - a.k.a. Flubber, Glorp, or Glurch
  - Household ingredients:
    - PVA (Polyvinyl Acetate) Glue
    - Activator (Borate Ions): Liquid Starch or Borax or Saline Solution with Baking Soda
  - STEM Concepts:
    - Polymers / Cross-linking chains
    - Non-Newtonian fluids / Viscosity





# SLIME TREND TAKES OFF

Slime Compilation:  
[https://youtu.be/5Pg3b0  
b6CEc](https://youtu.be/5Pg3b0b6CEc)



# MODERN SLIME-MAKING



- 2015 - Videos and posts of homemade slime by Thai and Southeast Asian creators pop up on social media and quickly spread worldwide.
  - Articles cite aspects such as the inexpensiveness of materials, customizability, and universal ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response) characteristics that factored into the phenomena.

# MODERN SLIME-MAKING

- Many “Slimers” (slime crafters) will sell their wares at local events or online on their social media accounts or Etsy and are often tweens, teens, or young adults. Local examples include:
  - Maui Slime Co. (15 & 12 yo. sisters Edana & Geneva Philips)
  - FluffyWaffleSlimes (an adult Oahu-based slimer)
- Make-&-Take Stores
  - For messy crafts like painting and pottery are popular nationwide
  - May 2019: Jason & Yani Higuchi open My Slime Playroom in Kapolei
- Slime Party Services
  - Across the US, there are several party companies you can hire to run slime-making workshop at birthdays or events. They set everything up, provide the materials, and clean up!





# TYPES OF SLIME

A Quick Overview



# TYPES OF SLIME

## Basic

- Most slime recipes derived from:
  - Glue
  - Activator
  - Color
  - Scents also an option
- Variant: Glossy Slime – added ingredients such baby oil, hand lotion, hair conditioner, etc. make Basic Slime super thick and glossy.

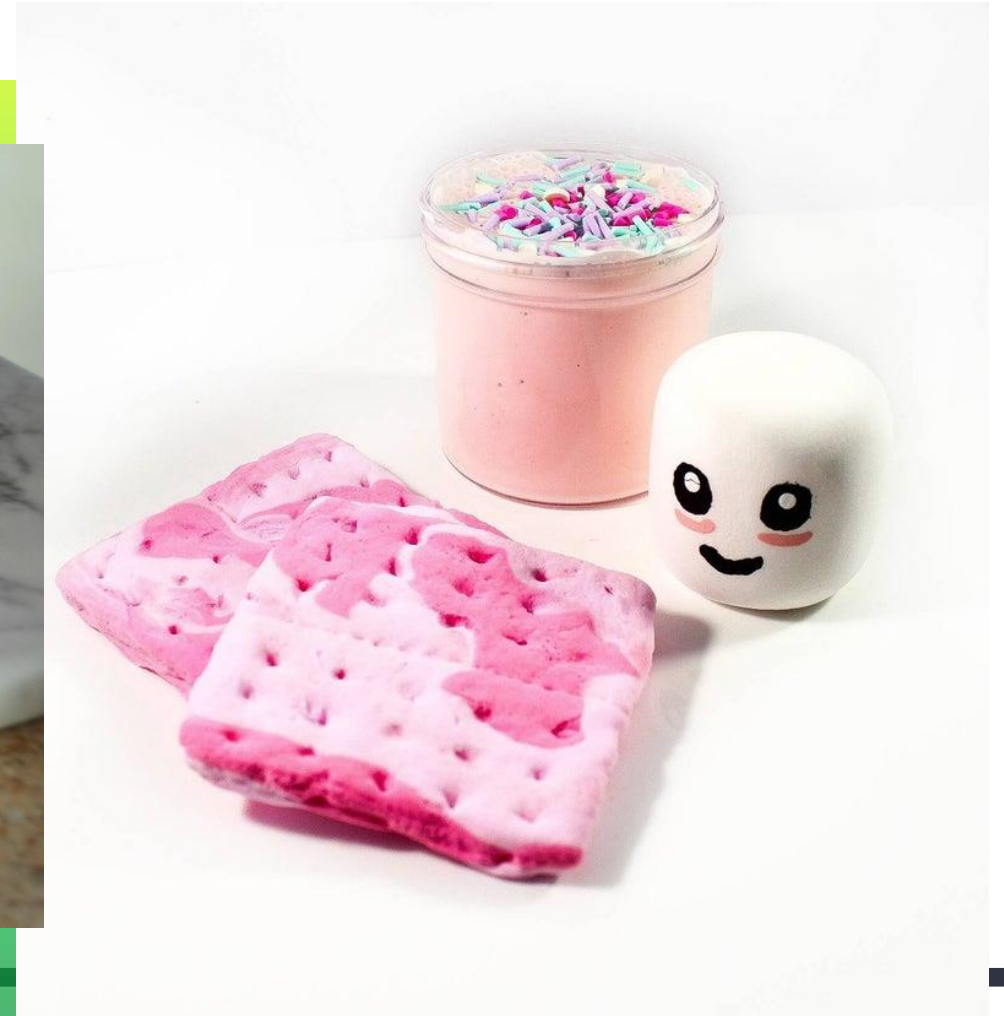
Glossy Slime: [slimeandfoam.com](http://slimeandfoam.com)  
Clear Slime: [littlebinsforlittlehands.com](http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com)



## Butter

- Adding Daiso (or similar) soft clay, makes slime spread very easily, like butter!
- Slimers that make DIY Kit Slimes often will shape the clay into cute figures that the buyer will mix in to create their own butter slime.

# BUTTER & DIY KIT SLIME



# TYPES OF SLIME

## Cloud or Icee

- Add instant snow for a super light textured slime.
  - White glue = Cloud Slime
  - Clear glue = Icee Slime



Yellow Icee Slime: [howtomakeslime.com](http://howtomakeslime.com)  
Fluffy Slime: [thirtyhandmadedays.com](http://thirtyhandmadedays.com)

## Fluffy

- Add shaving cream for a light fluffy textured slime. Appears matte at first, but will deflate into a glossy slime.
- Variant: Iceberg Slime – leaving this slime uncovered for several days will give it a hardened skin that you can break up when you play with it.

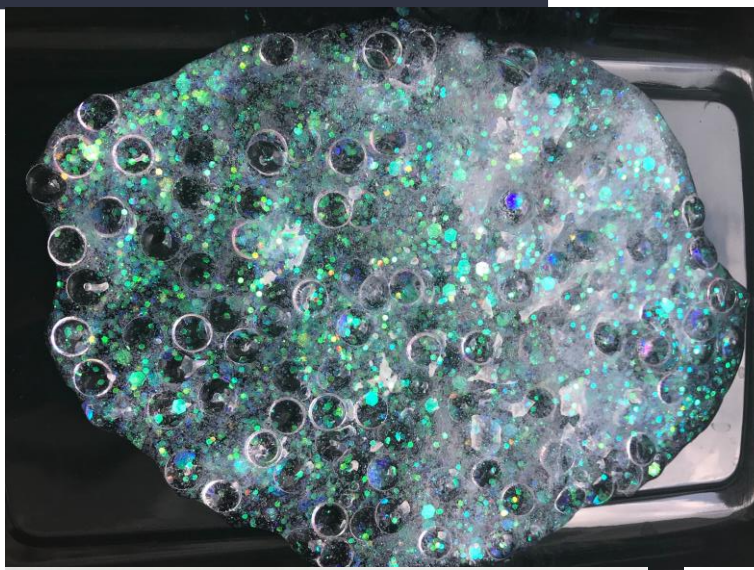


# TYPES OF SLIME

## Crunchy

- Fishbowl Slime = glass or plastic fishbowl or vase filler
- Floam Slime = tiny foam balls or pellets, beanbag chair filler
- Slushie Slime = plastic pellets, beanbag filler
- Bingsu Slime = special thin hollow plastic beads. Named after the traditional Korean ice dessert.

Fishbowl Slime: [PureGoldSlimes etsy.com](#),  
Floam Slime: [littlebinsforlittlehands.com](#),  
Slushie Slime: [aleenes.com](#), Bingsu Slime: [PortCitySlime etsy.com](#)





# TYPES OF SLIME

## Glitter

- Loose glitter added, or made with glitter glue itself.
- Variant: Glitter Bomb – entirely filled with sequins and/or glitter.



## Kawaii Deco

- Usually a clear slime with little trinkets and things inside (such as deco pieces or charms).
  - Charms can be purchased or handmade from polymer clay, resin, plastic, etc.



# KAWAII DECO SLIME



Pink Deco Slime: [KittyCakeSlime etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/KittyCakeSlime),  
Cereal Slime: [lindseysslimeshoppe etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/lindseysslimeshoppe),  
Clear Deco Slime: [WigglebottomsSlimes etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/WigglebottomsSlimes)



# TYPES OF SLIME

## Multicolor or Marble

- Different colored slime are partially mixed into one multi-hued slime.
- Eventually, this slime will blend into one color after continuous play or mixing.



## Jelly Cube

- Small sponge cubes are cut and added to slime made with clear glue.



# JELLY CUBE SLIME





# WHY SLIME IN THE LIBRARY?

Benefits of Slime



# WHY SLIME?

- STEAM
  - Introduce science concepts
  - Customization promotes creativity and experimentation
- Trendy & Fun
  - Can be popular with all ages
    - More elaborate or fancier slime can easily appeal to adults or teens
  - 2019 Trends in Libraries (ALA Center for the Future of Libraries)
    - The Maker Movement: makerspaces and hands-on education
    - Unplugged: intentionally set aside time to “unplug” from all digital devices/communication to take a break from the busyness of modern life



# WHY SLIME?

- Experience / Accessibility
  - Make-&-Take Stores like My Slime Playroom are expensive! \$15+
    - Buying slime in stores or online can be expensive compared to making your own!
- Entrepreneurism
  - Is slime the 21<sup>st</sup> century lemonade? Instead of making a lemonade stand, many kids and teen slimers are getting hands-on experience in entrepreneurship by selling their own handcrafted slime and running their own small businesses.
- Therapeutic
  - Can reduce anxiety as a stress reliever for all ages, be used as a sensory toy or for ASMR and relaxation.



# HOW TO RUN A SLIME PROGRAM

Considerations &  
Logistics



# PHYSICAL SPACE

- Where in the library will you hold your program?
  - Outside, meeting room, etc.
- How will you protect the space?
  - Consider flooring, tables, chairs, etc.
    - Non-carpeted area is ideal.
  - Can cover tables with plastic tablecloths or newspaper or leave as it and just wipe off with water or white vinegar.
- How many people can you accommodate in your space?



# TARGET AUDIENCE & STAFFING

## Target Audience

- Who do you want to come to your program?
  - Make sure the type of slime you're making matches with your target age. Don't make an difficult/elaborate slime with 1<sup>st</sup> graders.
- Will you restrict by age?
  - Recommended ages 5 and up
  - Kids/Teens/Adults only?



## Staffing

- Will you have help from co-workers or volunteers?
  - This may limit the number of participants you can accommodate based on how much help you'll have.
- Consider requiring children under 10 (or the age of your choice) to be accompanied by an assisting adult to participate.

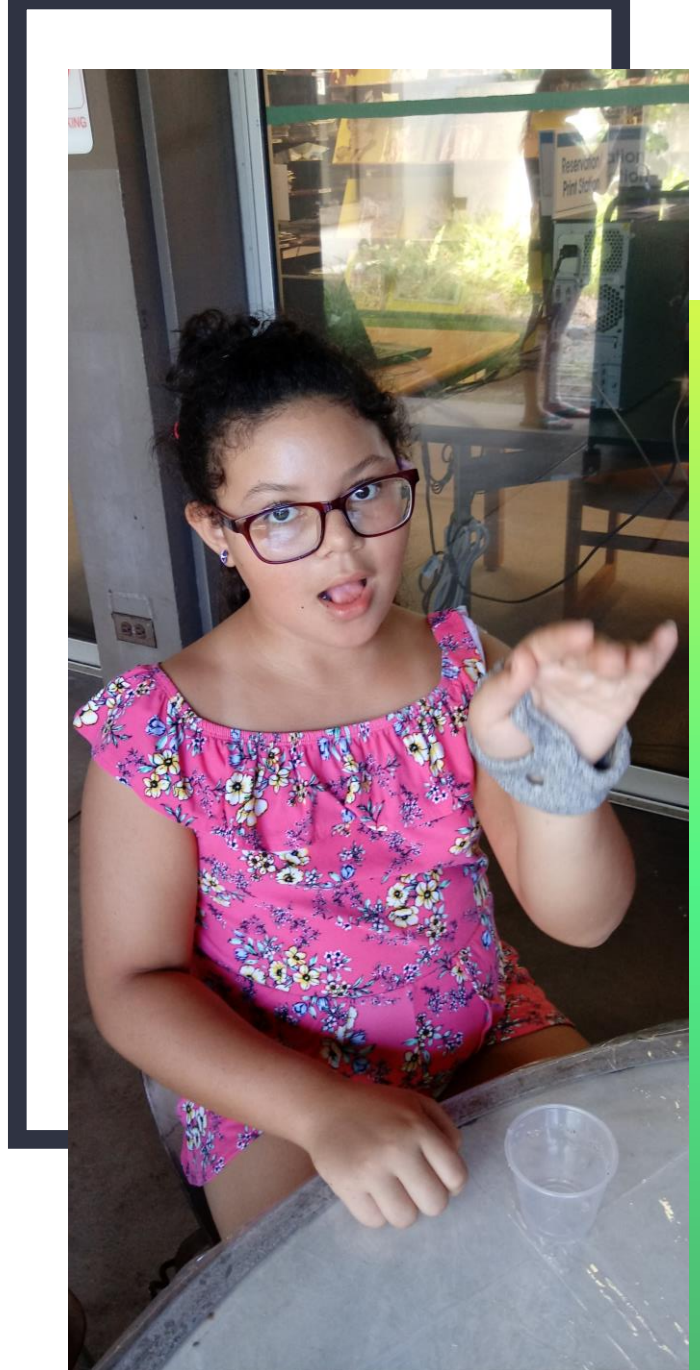


# NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS & RSVP

## Number of Participants

- The amount of people that can participate may vary based on:
  - Your space
  - Staffing
  - Budget/Supplies
- Recommended no more than 12 participants per session if running solo.
- Consider running multiple sessions to accommodate more participants.

Kahului Library Slime Club – September 2019



## RSVP or Drop In?

- RSVP is highly recommended if you can only accommodate a certain number of people due to space, staffing, or budget.
- When will you start sign ups?
  - 3 weeks prior or day of?
- Consider: RSVP required, walk-ins only if space available.
- Drop In sessions may need lots of supplies and manpower to run.

# TIME & BUDGET

## How Long is Your Program?

- Is it a set time or drop in session?
- Sample Schedule – 1 hour:
  - 10 min. – Sign in, add walk-ins/wait list in place of no shows.
  - 5 min. – Give instructions and safety guidelines (don't eat, wash hands, ask adult before making at home, etc.)
  - 30 mins – Make & play with slime
  - 15 mins – Time for staff to clean and set up for next session (if applicable)



## Budget

- Consider the ingredients needed for certain types of slime.
  - Basic slime + a mix-in vs. Kawaii Deco
- Scale down slime recipes to cut down on costs:
  - Many slime recipes call for a standard 5 oz bottle of glue, but 1/8 - 1/4 cup (1-2 oz.) of glue will make a nice handful of slime.



# HOW TO MAKE SLIME!

Supplies and Tips

# SUPPLIES

- Brands may react differently. Always test your recipe beforehand
  - Play up the science experiment angle and remind participants that experiments don't always work ... This is especially good to mention if you're allowing them to measure everything themselves.
- Glue – normally white or clear
  - I personally always use Elmer's
- Activator – common ones are contact lens/saline solution & baking soda, liquid starch, or borax & water
- Mix Ins (depending on recipe) – glitter, sand, pellets, beads, shaving cream, color, scents, etc.
- Containers / Transport Home:
  - 5.5 oz snack cups with lids (these perfect for scaled down recipes)!
  - 9 oz Solo plastic cups / ziptop bags (mix in cups & take home in baggies)
  - Also consider reusable or recycled containers
- Utensils & Measuring cups/spoons:
  - Chopsticks, popsicle sticks, or reusable utensils
  - Measuring tools are a great teachable moment, but weigh benefit vs. potential mess



# HOW TO MAKE GLITTER SLIME

- 1/4 cup (2 oz.) Clear PVA Glue
- 1/8 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 & 1/2 tsp. Saline Solution or Contact Solution (must contain boric acid to work)
- 1/8 tsp. Glitter
- 1 drop of Food Coloring
- 1 Snack Size Zip-Top Bag or an Airtight Container
- A Container/Cup to mix in & Chopstick or Stirring Utensil
- **Directions:**
- Add the glue, baking soda, solution, glitter, and food color into a cup or container and mix together for at least 5 minutes or until the slime begins to pull together and away from the dish.
- Remove the slime and knead it with your hands until no longer sticky. You may need to add a few more drops of saline/contact solution.
- After playing, store at room temperature in a zip-top bag or airtight container. Please take your slime home to play with and do not open it in the library.

# ADVICE FROM LIBRARIAN SLIMERS

- Have the recipe or instructions out for participants to follow
  - I create half-sheet handouts with the Slime Club recipe of the month so participants can make more at home.
  - You can't be everywhere at once, and many kids have made slime before, so having instructions out at each table is helpful.
    - Can be laminated cards like at My Slime Playroom, you can put in sheet protectors, or I just give out handouts to people that wanted them.
- Pre-measure to reduce mess
  - At the very least, consider portioning the glue out in advance.
    - Although it is educational and beneficial for kids to learn to use measuring tools, I decided it would be too messy and too much wait time in between (I wasn't going to buy that many duplicate supplies or measuring tools for my program).
    - With three teen student helpers, it took the four of us no more than 30 minutes to pre-measure enough ingredients for 45 participants.



# ADVICE FROM LIBRARIAN SLIMERS

- Limit ingredients or choices
  - Especially if all the ingredients are out/available to use
  - Two to three choices of color or glitter is more than enough!
- Know how many people you can accommodate and stick to it!
  - Run multiple sessions if you are able to if necessary
- White vinegar is magic
  - Helps break down the slime so you can scrape it off of fabrics and such

# SLIME ON A BUDGET!

Sand Slime Approximate Cost = \$69.50 for 48 people (\$1.44 per participant!)

- 1 Gallon of White Glue = \$10
- 1 Box of Baking Soda = \$1
- Generic Saline Solution = \$6
- 100 Chopsticks = \$10
- 1 qt. of Sand = \$0
- 3 Plastic Tablecloths = \$18
- 60 Snack Cups w/ Lids = \$12
- 1 Gallon White Vinegar - \$5
- 5 Measuring Cups/Spoons Sets = \$7.50



Seeing happy kids playing with slime? Priceless!





**THANK YOU!  
ANY QUESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS?**

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**Resource Page:**

[https://jenniferfuchikami.wordpress.com  
/d-i-y-slime-at-the-library-resources](https://jenniferfuchikami.wordpress.com/d-i-y-slime-at-the-library-resources)